

Message Text

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ACTION LAB-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, APUB
SUBJECT: US LABOR BULLETIN: DOL INQUIRY ABOUT NEED FOR SPANISH
TRANSLATION

REF: STATE 66676

1. FROM TIME TO TIME EMBASSY HAS TRANSLATED AND USED
MATERIALS FROM DOL/ILAB'S PERIODIC LABOR PACKET.
ICA COMPONENT OF EMBASSY HAS THE CAPACITY TO
TRANSLATE ONE OR TWO LABOR ARTICLES PER MONTH
WHICH COULD BE ABSORBED PRODUCTIVELY IN LOCAL
MEDIA AND LABOR CIRCLES.

2. IN REVIEWING THE FEW ISSUES OF THE NEW "US LABOR
BULLETIN" AND THE "PAI NEWS PACKET" WHICH WE HAVE
RECEIVED, AS WELL AS THE REST OF THE USUAL CONTENTS
OF THE ILAB LABOR PACKET, WE FIND THE FOLLOWING
ILLUSTRATIVE SUBJECT MATTERS OF CURRENT PRIORITY
PLACEMENT POTENTIAL:

(A) US EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AS AN INDICATOR OF
THE HEALTH OF THE US ECONOMY(ON ACCOUNT OF
THE CURRENT ECONOMIC RECESSION IN ARGENTINA);

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(B) MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS.
(THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE
RECENT COAL STRIKE);

(C) RELATIONS BETWEEN THE AFL-CIO (AND THE UAW
AND OTHER INDEPENDENTS) AND THE CARTER AD-
MINISTRATION. THERE WAS GREAT INTEREST IN

THE RECENT AFL-CIO CONVENTION. IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM LOCAL UNION LEADERS, WE COMPILED, REPRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED (IN THE ORIGINAL ENGLISH) A SPECIAL PACKET OF THE MOST INTERESTING ARTICLES WE HAD ON THE CONVENTION (INCLUDING THE ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE "US LABOR BULLETIN"). THERE WAS A SPECIAL DEMAND FOR THE TEXT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S SPEECH.

(D) ILO IS ANOTHER AREA OF OBVIOUS INTEREST, BUT OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE FOR ARTICLES STRESSING US INTENTION TO REENTER (IN ORDER TO REINFORCE OUR HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES IN THIS COUNTRY).

3. WHILE WE HAVE A CAPABILITY TO TRANSLATE A LIMITED AMOUNT OF INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES LOCALLY, OUR OBJECTIVES DO CALL FOR INCREASING OUR LABOR TARGETS THIS COMING YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WAY IN WHICH WE SEE THE LOCAL SITUATION EVOLVING. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM WASHINGTON IN THIS AREA WOULD BE HELPFUL AND EMBASSY, THEREFORE, RECOMMENDS ICA/WASHINGTON'S TRANSLATION ON A TRIAL BASIS OF THE NEXT SIX ISSUES OR SO OF THE MONTHLY "US LABOR BULLETIN" FOR INCLUSION IN THE "FEATURE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PACKET" OR "WIRELESS FILE." AT THE END OF THE TRIAL PERIOD, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO REVIEW THE QUESTION AGAIN TO DETERMINE WHAT PERCENTAGE OF TRANSLATED ARTICLES WE ACTUALLY PLACED.

4. THE "PAI PACKET" CONTAINS ARTICLES OF OCCASIONAL INTEREST TO US, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO WARRANT EMBASSY'S SUBSCRIPTION. INCLUSION OF HIGH INTEREST ARTICLES FROM THIS SERIES IN THE WIRELESS FILE (EVEN IN ENGLISH) WOULD BE OF UTILITY.

5. FINALLY, WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF USEFUL PUBLICATIONS, WE WISH TO MAKE SPECIAL MENTION OF "JOHN HERLING'S LABOR LETTER", A STAPLE COMPONENT OF THE ILAB PACKET. THE LETTER CONTAINS MANY USABLE AND TIMELY ARTICLES, WHICH ARE WELL WRITTEN AND INSIGHTFUL. CONSTITUTING ONE MAN'S BIASES AND OPINION, THEY AVOID THE CAST OF OFFICIALLY SPONSORED USG PROPAGANDA. THEY OFTEN TIMES GET BEHIND THE SCENES, REASONABLY ATTEMPTING TO PRESENT A COMPREHENSIBLE INTERPRETATION OF THE WAY THINGS REALLY WORK IN THE US, IN SUCH A WAY THAT ACCORDS WITH TYPICAL LATIN AMERICAN PREJUDICES, AND SO ARE OF REAL

VALUE TO US FOR THEIR INNATELY HIGH DEGREE OF CREDIBILITY. THERE
HAVE BEEN SEVERAL HERLING ARTICLES
WHICH WE WOULD HAVE LIKED VERY MUCH TO PLACE
IN THE LOCAL MEDIA, BUT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM DOING
SO BECAUSE OF PUBLICATION RIGHTS.

6. WE HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM WITH THE PRESS CLIPS IN
ILAB'S REGULAR PACKET (ENTITLED "LABOR PACKET
CLIPPINGS") WHICH OFTEN CONTAIN INTERESTING
ARTICLES FROM THE US PRESS.
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